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Message Text

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44
ORIGIN CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 A-01 IO-13 ST-01 PER-01 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AS-01 /073 R

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DOD/ISA:MR. BLEAKLEY
-- --
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: COMPULSORY NO-FAULT MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

REF: MANILA 4766

1. FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND PERSONNEL IN U.S. ARE EXPECTED COMPLY WITH LOCAL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS OF JURISDICTION WHERE VEHICLES ARE REGISTERED. HOWEVER, IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND VIRGINIA, NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT OF LIABILITY INSURANCE EXISTS ALTHOUGH MANY
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MISSIONS AND PERSONNEL CARRY SUCH INSURANCE. MARYLAND

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REQUIRES PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE AS PRERE-
QUISITE TO AUTO REGISTRATION, ALTHOUGH TO DATE ALL DIPLO-
MATS RESIDING THERE HAVE REGISTERED THEIR VEHICLES IN D.C.
IN ORDER RECEIVE DISTINCTIVE DPL PLATE. SOON MARYLAND
WILL ISSUE DISTINCTIVE PLATE OF ITS OWN AND DIPLOMATS
RESIDING THERE WILL BE EXPECTED REGISTER THEIR CARS THERE,
WHEREUPON DIPLOMATS MUST MEET STATE INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
BEFORE TAG ISSUANCE. MISSION EMPLOYEES LIVING IN MARYLAND
MUST REGISTER THEIR CARS IN MARYLAND AND ARE ISSUED
REGULAR LICENSE PLATES GRATIS UPON EVIDENCE INSURANCE
COVERAGE.

2. NEW YORK STATE REQUIRES EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE
BEFORE ISSUANCE OF LICENSE PLATES; USUN ENFORCES REQUIRE-

MENT BY AUTHORIZING DPL TAGS ONLY AFTER UN MISSIONS AND
DIPLOMATS PRESENT SUCH EVIDENCE.

3. DEPARTMENT PLANS CANVASS SELECTED POSTS TO ASCERTAIN
WHETHER MISSIONS AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON
AREA CAN AND SHOULD BE REQUIRED PRESENT EVIDENCE OF
PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE AS PREREQUISITE TO
AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION. THE INEQUITY OF IMPOSING SUCH
REQUIREMENT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS AND DIPLOMATS NOT IMPOSED
ON CITIZENS IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN REACHING A DETER-
MINATION.

4. ALTHOUGH INQUIRY APPARENTLY LIMITED TO OFFICIAL
VEHICLES, EMBASSY SHOULD KNOW THAT ON DECEMBER 10, 1975,
DEPARTMENT INFORMED CHIEFS OF MISSION IN WASHINGTON THAT
ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO IMMUNITY WHO OPERATE AUTOMOBILES
SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY COVERED BY LIABILITY INSURANCE.
DEPARTMENT URGED THAT ALL PERSONS NOT PRESENTLY COVERED
OBTAIN INSURANCE SOONEST, POINTING OUT THAT AGGRIEVED
PRIVATE CITIZEN IS ESSENTIALLY WITHOUT LEGAL RECOURSE
AND MAY SUSTAIN SERIOUS LOSSES IF DIPLOMATIC PARTY IS
UNINSURED. ONE NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER CASE IN METROPOLI-
TAN AREA CAUSED BY AN OFFICIAL EMBASSY CAR ON WHICH
INSURANCE HAD LAPSED AND AN EARLIER CASE IN WHICH AN
UNINSURED DIPLOMAT'S NEGLIGENCE CAUSED CATASTROPHIC,
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PERMANENT INJURIES HAVE DRAMATICALLY HIGHLIGHTED PROBLEM
AND AROUSED WIDESPREAD INDIGNATION OVER IMMUNITY.

5. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF EXEMPTION FROM VEHICLE REGISTRA-
TION REQUIREMENTS BASED ON RECIPROCITY. DIPLOMATS HAVE
DUTY TO RESPECT LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF RECEIVING STATE,
(ARTICLE 41, VIENNA CONVENTION) AND DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS
ALL ELEMENTS OF ITS MISSIONS ABROAD SHOULD OBSERVE SAME

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PRECEPT AS REGARDS OFFICIAL VEHICLES. ROBINSON

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